

### Amendments to the Claims

Please replace the previously pending claims with the claims in the following claim listing:

1. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing lupus nephritis in a mammal of interest selected from the group consisting of a human and a mouse, the method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) detecting an expression level of midkine gene in a biological sample isolated from [[a]] the mammal of interest, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of a kidney sample, a urine sample, and a blood sample; and
  - (b) comparing using the expression level as a marker for lupus nephritis in the mammal of interest, wherein an elevated expression level indicates that the mammal has an increased likelihood of lupus nephritis to a reference expression level of said midkine gene in at least one control sample.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 22, wherein said at least one ~~control~~ control sample is isolated from at least one ~~control~~ control mammal, wherein said at least one control mammal does not have systemic lupus erythematosus or lupus nephritis.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the mammal of interest has systemic lupus erythematosus or lupus nephritis.
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 2, wherein the expression level and the reference expression level are detected using an antibody directed against a product of said midkine gene.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the expression level and the reference expression level are detected by measuring the level of an RNA transcript of said midkine gene.
6. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of a tissue sample, a urine sample, and a blood sample.
7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the biological sample and said at least one control sample are kidney samples.
8. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the mammal of interest is a human.
- 9-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) comprises comparing the expression level to a reference expression level of said midkine gene in at least one control sample.